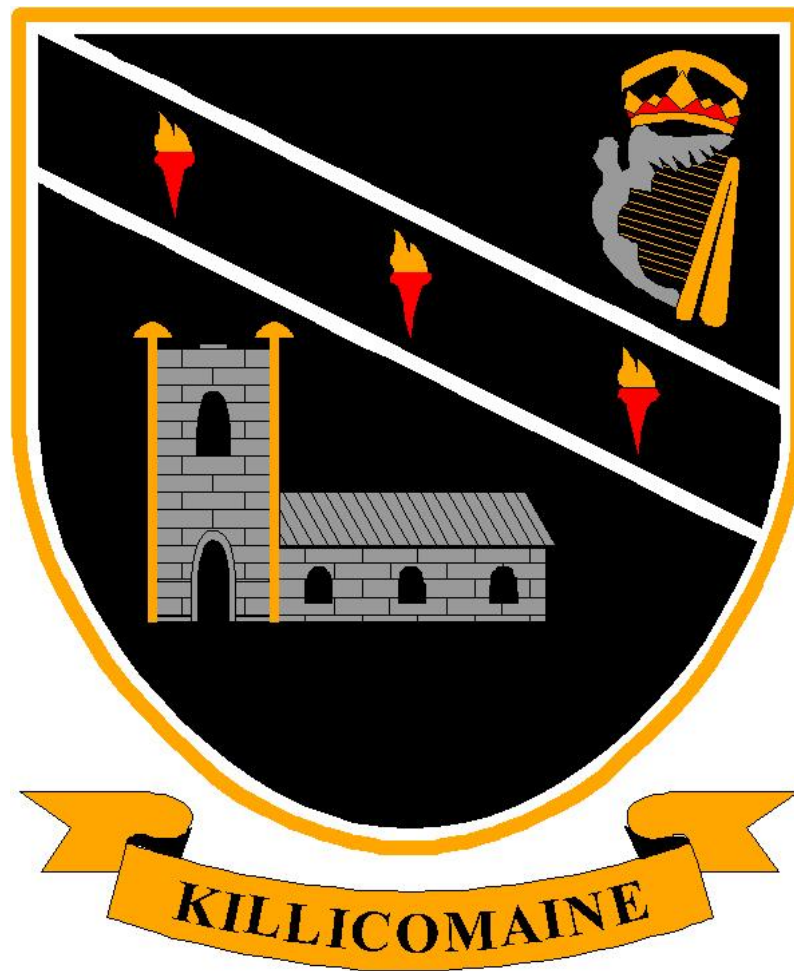


KJHS

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY



This policy is a contributory:

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is an important component of our Pastoral Care Provision in school. This policy therefore contributes to our Pastoral Care Policy and outlines how we aim to ensure our pupils are well catered for in all aspects of this increasingly important area of their developing life.

MISSION:

Working together for excellence within a caring community.

AIMS:

1. To maintain and improve the quality of Teaching & Learning
2. To ensure effective Leadership (based on an effective SDP) and the development of Management and Leadership skills at all levels
3. To ensure quality of provision and experiences for all pupils
4. To promote pupil voice and increased effective communication with parents, stakeholders and community

POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE)

This RSE policy supports the Aims of the school which seeks to “ensure quality of provision and experiences for all pupils”. Further it seeks to stimulate an appreciation of moral values.

1. RATIONALE

Education is concerned with the whole person in relation to their spiritual, physical, emotional, social and cognitive development. RSE is a statutory element of the Revised N.I. Curriculum. In the areas of Home Economics, Science, Personal Development, R.E. and P.E., children should learn about changes which will occur as they grow older. Particularly around the 11-14 age group they become more aware of their own sexuality and need information and guidance in coming to terms with physical and emotional changes and the impact these have in relationships with other people. Whilst most parents appreciate the need to educate their children on sex education, not all will be able to deliver this and therefore rely on schools to provide this in school.

At this stage of their maturation they need guidance from sympathetic and well-informed adults. Delivered in a secure and understanding environment, RSE strives to foster self respect in order to help children make good decisions.

MISSION OF RSE

1. To enhance the personal development self esteem and well being of the young person and in doing so encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour.
2. To develop self respect and self confidence.
3. To help the young person learn how to develop and enjoy healthy and respectful friendships and relationships with peers, teachers and other adults which are based on responsibility and mutual respect.
4. Provide guidance, knowledge and information to enable young people to develop in a healthy and responsible manner towards human sexuality.
5. To help the young person value the importance of stable, loving personal relationships, marriage and family life

CONTENT: KNOWLEDGE – these issues are catered for in the following subject areas

HOME ECONOMICS

Family Life Cycle: physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of each stage in life. Different types of families. Roles and relationships of members in a family. Healthy Life style.

SCIENCE

Changes in puberty both physical and emotional. The Menstrual cycle, sexual intercourse, pregnancy and birth. Development of the young baby to adolescence. Responsible attitude to sexual relationships and parenthood. Contraception and sexually transmitted infections.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Self awareness

Sense of self, self esteem, personal morals, values and beliefs. Influences on a young person.

(b) Personal Health

Strategies to manage the effects of change on body, mind and behaviour.

(c) Relationships

Qualities of loving, respectful relationships including friendships. How to deal with challenging relationships and resolve conflict. Implications of sexual maturation. Emotional, social and moral implications of early sexual activity.

(d) Racism

Respect for different races, cultures, religions etc.

R.E.

Different types of relationships – family, friends, boy/girl. What is important in a good relationship – communication, honesty, trust etc. Consequences when these are absent.

P.E.

In P.E. relationships are emphasized through promoting good sporting behaviour and respect not only between our own pupils but those from other schools as well.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions.
2. Enhanced self-awareness and self-esteem.
3. Healthy and respectful friendships and relationships with each other and all members of staff.
4. Confidence in making healthy choices regarding their sexuality.
5. A sense of value for family life and an appreciation of the responsibilities of parenthood.

SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

- Communication
- Assertiveness
- Self Management
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Working with others
- Managing Information

ISSUES

1. The status of the family

The school supports the institutions of marriage and the family, while being sensitive to those with different family circumstances. Marriage will be presented as the ideal to which most aspire, being achieved for many through hard work and commitment.

2. Confidentiality and Child Protection

Staff cannot give a guarantee of confidentiality to pupils around issues relating to child protection. If details are revealed that would lead staff to suspect that sexual abuse is involved, the teacher must follow the child protection procedures outlined in that policy. This too would apply where there is suspicion that a pupil is involved in sexual relationships.

3. The promotion of abstinence

In line with the school ethos, sexual abstinence should be promoted until young people are physically and emotionally mature enough to understand the consequences and their inherent responsibilities. Sexual abstinence before marriage, and fidelity within it, will be presented as a positive and desirable option and an achievable reality.

4. Homosexuality

Heterosexual relationships will be presented as the main context for sexual intimacy, reflecting the ethos of the school. Respect for all people regardless of sexual orientation will be promoted in line with the school ethos – no pupils should be isolated on the grounds of their sexual orientation. Pupils should have the right to hold different views/lifestyles in a peaceful manner. Antagonism/bullying or other forms of abuse against pupils who reveal that they are homosexual will not be tolerated by the school.

“All pupils have the right to learn in a safe environment: to be treated with respect and dignity: and not to be treated any less favourably on the grounds of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.”

Equality commission

5. Withdrawal from class

The school is willing to discuss with concerned parents, their expressed desire for their son/daughter to be excluded from aspects of the RSE programme, however they have no statutory right to do so.

6. Pregnancy

In the event of a young woman informing the school that she is pregnant we will consider it a child protection issue. Advice will initially be sought from the school's designated teacher for child protection and if it is deemed necessary the school will follow its child protection guidelines.

7. 'Risky' / Vulnerable children

'Risky' children display behaviours that may be harmful to other children. Vulnerable children are more prone to abuse from others. Whilst these children have a right to education the school has an obligation to ensure the well being of the entire school population. In order to do so we will carry out a risk assessment.

PUPILS presenting with difficulties regarding any of these issues in any subject areas will be dealt with by subject teachers, HoD's, HoY's, SENCo, Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Vice-Principal, and/or one of the schools' two counsellors.

PARENTS who require further information or clarification of any of the content of this policy should contact school (028 3833 2021) and ask for the Vice-Principal.